



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Announces New Women's Business Center Sites in Seven States

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration today announced that it is adding 11 new sites, in seven states, to the SBA's Women's Business Center (WBC) Program. WBCs provide long-term training, counseling, and mentoring services to women entrepreneurs who want to start or grow small businesses.

"Women own more than 10 million small businesses in America, and that number is growing," SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. "President Bush and I are committed to continuing to reach out to women business owners, providing them with the tools that can help them succeed. SBA's Women's Business Centers are a powerful resource for women business owners, and I am proud to announce these new openings."

The 11 new WBC sites will share \$1,650,000 in SBA funding, to be distributed among the centers. Each site is required to match a portion of the federal funds with private contributions, and services are tailored to the community in which the WBC is located. The WBC program provides funding for an initial five-year term.

With the additional sites, the WBC program now has 91 community-based centers in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa. Last year, the WBC program served more than 102,528 clients nationwide. The centers are located in rural, urban and suburban areas, and direct much of their training and counseling assistance toward economically disadvantaged women. They offer many innovative programs, including financial management, marketing and technical assistance, procurement training, Internet training, and mentoring in several different languages. The centers also provide specialized programs that address issues facing displaced workers or rural home-based entrepreneurs.

The program also offers an online Women's Business Center that can be accessed 24 hours a day at <http://www.onlinewbc.gov/>. For more information on the SBA's Women's Business Center Program or to find the location of the nearest center, contact your local SBA office or visit the Office of Women's Business Ownership's home page at www.sba.gov/financing/special/women.html

A complete list of the new WBCs is provided below.

ELEVEN (11) NEW 2003 WBCs

Mountain Microenterprise Fund, Inc. (MMF)

29 ½ Page Avenue

Asheville, NC 28801

Contact: Greg Walker-Wilson

Phone: (828) 253-2834

New Visions, New Ventures, Inc.

801 East Main Street, Suite 1102

Richmond, VA 23219

Contact: Dr. Ann Parker Maust

Phone: (804) 643-1081

Canisius College

2001 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14208

Contact: Maureen B. McMahon

Phone: (716) 888-2103

CHARO Community Development Corporation

4301 East Valley Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90032

Contact: Cynthia Amador

Phone: (323) 269-0751

Nevada Micro-Enterprise Development Corporation

113 West Plumb Lane

Reno, NV 89509

Contact: Anna Siefert

Phone: (702) 734-3555

Inland Empire Women's Business Center

California State University, San Bernardino

5500 University Parkway

San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397

Contact: Albert K. Karnig

Phone: (909) 880-5002

Fax: (909) 880-5901

Women's Enterprise Development Center, Inc.

707 Westchester Avenue, Suite 213

White Plains, NY 10604

Contact: Anne M. Janiak

Phone: (914) 948-6098

National University

11255 N. Torrey Pines Road

La Jolla, CA 92037-1011

Contact: Sydney Blake, Ph.D, Dir, Center
for Entrepreneurship

Phone: (858) 642-8429

Fax: (858) 642-8716

Women's Economic Ventures of Santa Barbara

1136 Montecito Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Contact: Marsha Bailey

Phone: (805) 962-4288

Community First Fund

44 North Queen Street

P.O. Box 524

Lancaster, PA 17608-0524

Contact: Daniel Betancourt

Phone: (717) 393-2351

Alex Community Development Corporation

12200 Fairhill Road, Suite B-405

Cleveland, OH 44120

Contact: Alexis E. Afzal

Phone: (216) 707-0777